



**MARIN MUNICIPAL
WATER DISTRICT**

SEP 16 1999

0695 (1)

220 Nellen Avenue
Corte Madera, CA 94925-1169
TEL 415.927.4600 FAX 415.945.1449
FAX 415.927.4953
www.marinwater.org

September 3, 1999

Lester Snow, Director
CALFED
1416 9th Street Ste 1155
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

At its meeting this week, the Board of Directors of Marin Municipal Water District approved a resolution commenting on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This resolution focuses on the issues most critical to the District's interests.

MMWD has long been recognized as a leader in water conservation and efficiency and our efforts have provided both economic and environmental benefits. MMWD urges CALFED to:

- Guarantee adequate freshwater flows into the Bay
- Ensure water conservation by all users
- Ensure that the Bay Area receives a fair share of CALFED funding for environmental restoration efforts

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the process.

Sincerely,

Joe Nation
President
Board of Directors

JN:bg

cc: Lisa Jean Sheldon, ACWA

RESOLUTION NO. 7053**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
COMMENTING ON THE CALFED PLAN**

WHEREAS, the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and the diverse ecosystems it supports are fundamental to the environmental well-being of the entire Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, much of the Bay Area's economic vitality is supported by the Bay-Delta estuary, including Industries such as tourism, recreational and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, the Bay-Delta estuary's health is in rapid decline, manifested by various indicators including dramatic reductions in fish populations, and due to a variety of devastating impacts, including the diversion of over 50 percent of its flows from the watershed's rivers, the loss of over 85 percent of historic wetlands, and the discharge of 40,000 tons of pollutants into the Bay; and

WHEREAS, since 1994 the Federal Government and the State of California, in conjunction with agricultural, urban and environmental stakeholders, have undertaken an effort to address the remarkably complex water resource issues of the Bay-Delta ecosystem through a process known as CALFED; and

WHEREAS, in the CALFED process the current public comment period for the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS provides a critical opportunity for input on the issues affecting the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary.

NOW. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Marin Municipal Water District does hereby identify that the following essential elements must be incorporated into future policies and programs undertaken by the CALFed process:

- A guarantee that there will be adequate freshwater flows into the Bay - The San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary's historic freshwater flows have been reduced by half. Currently there exists a need for science-based standards that establish minimum flows of freshwater into the Bay. Adequate flows will benefit the entire estuary in diverse ways, including improving water quality, supporting biological diversity, and the health of all of the Bay-Delta estuary's ecosystems.
- Water conservation by all users - Equitable water conservation practices must be required and enforced for all users throughout California. Managing demand through conservation practices and

greater water use efficiency can eliminate or substantially reduce the need to construct new storage facilities. Until conservation practices and demand management have been implemented and monitored, the construction of new storage facilities should not be initiated.

- A fair share of funding for Bay Area environmental restoration efforts -
The EPA's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), BCDC's San Francisco Bay Plan, and the RWQCB's Bay Basin Plan all establish numerous beneficial measures that must be taken to protect and restore habitat and improve fish and wildlife in the Bay-Delta estuary. Of the most recent funding package only five percent came to projects in the region. Funding to implement these recommended programs must be brought up to levels that are appropriately proportional to budgets for environmental restoration in other parts of the State.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1st day of September, 1999, by the following vote of the Board.

AYES: Directors Gibson, Hill, Huffman, Jaeger and Nation

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Betty J. Baughman
Secretary, Board of Directors